

Nine-year old Melissa Poe never said, "They can't expect anything from me, I'm just a kid." Instead she founded Kid's FACE in 1989, a national organization of youth united for a clean environment.

Instead of excuses all these people said, "I'm an American! I believe in the value of my service and in my ability to make a difference." So you see, everyone can support their country through service—regardless of race, gender, or age.

How can I let my point of light shine? School and community programs offer me opportunities for service through volunteerism. I can take part in community clean-up days, recycling efforts, holiday projects for the underprivileged, and the list goes on. I do realize, however, that as I grow what is expected of me will also grow proportionately. Will I show initiative, help my community, and be a positive example to others?

I think of the word "service" as an acronym, each of the letters representing a philosophy to guide me. "S" is for selflessness; "E" is for effort; "R" is for responsibility; "V" is for volunteerism; "I" is for initiative; "C" is for community; and "E" is for example.

So I've come to modify my dad's definition of service and I hope each day to let this motto remind me of my duty—"Proud service to my country is a priority and I will go beyond what is necessary. I will seek no excuses and will accept responsibilities."

COLORADO NONPROFIT DAY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth annual Colorado Nonprofit Day. Coloradans have set aside today to honor the 12,660 charitable nonprofit groups registered in our state. We are very fortunate to have these groups operating in our cities, towns, and countryside. Because of the strong spirit of volunteerism in our state, Colorado ranks 15th in the country in voluntary community participation. We exceed national levels of nonprofit participation in such areas as religion, recreation, the arts, and environmental and scientific research.

Few Coloradans have not experienced the joy, fun, succor, reprieve, shelter, guidance, or friendship from these agencies. From churches and synagogues, to boys and girls clubs, to senior associations, to charities for the poor and infirm, Colorado nonprofits provide a great benefit to our communities.

For those people serving the poor, the aged, the young, the infirm, the lost, and each of us in times of want and times of plenty, I commend the energy, compassion, and dedication of nonprofits to fellow Coloradans. I applaud them for the impact they have had on our communities and the lives they have saved and enriched through service to others. They have cared for neighbors and strangers with equal zeal. They have mended the social fabric and knitted us together. Colorado recognizes their sacrifices. Colorado's nonprofits make us proud.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO HARVEY WILLIAMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Harvey Williams of Versailles, MO, was selected by the Versailles Chamber of Commerce as the 1999 Citizen of the Year.

Williams was chosen for his various generous contributions to the community. He has been president of the Versailles Area Chamber of Commerce and served on the chamber board. He was instrumental in bringing Gates Rubber Company and Wal-Mart into Versailles.

He has been president of the Morgan County Fair Board and held several other offices while an active member of the Versailles Lions Club. He has also served on the Olde Tyme Apple Festival organizing committee, and was instrumental in incorporating the Royal Theater. He still serves on the Royal Theater Board of Directors.

Williams is a former chairman of the Morgan County Health Center Board of Directors and has spoken on behalf of the local cancer society on cancer survival from personal experience as a cancer survivor.

Williams is Vice-President of Mercantile Bank, and he and his wife are owners of Harvest Designs in Versailles.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Mr. Williams for his well deserved award as the Versailles Chamber of Commerce's 1999 Citizen of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO MARIAN KRISTEN CHURCH OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 395

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Cahaba Girl Scout Council in Birmingham, Alabama. She is Marian Kristen Church of Girl Scout Troop 395. She has been honored for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The award can be earned by a girl aged 14 through 17 or in grades 9 through 12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the

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Senior Girl Scout and carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout Volunteer.

As a member of the Cahaba Girl Scout Council, Marian Kristen Church began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award on August 20, 1998. She completed her project, Landscaping of Alabama Mining Museum Sign, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOTING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which is long overdue, requiring real accountability of the U.S. foreign military assistance program. In these tight budgetary times we must not lose sight of eliminating wasteful spending and ensuring the usefulness of all federal programs. It is well known that U.S. foreign assistance initiatives have always been among the least popular federal programs. Primarily, this is because U.S. foreign aid programs seem ineffective and counterproductive. Members of Congress either oppose foreign assistance outright, or those who support it find themselves defending foreign aid as "serving the interests of the United States." I believe Members subscribing to either position will be interested in the "United Nations Accountability Act," which I introduced today.

The Department of State is required by the law to submit a report to Congress each year outlining voting trends in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The overall voting coincidence with the U.S. (the number of times that nations voted the same as the U.S. on all votes) is always appallingly low. In 1997, it was 46.7%—down from 49.4% in 1996 and 50.6% in 1995. Despite that, a number of nations receive foreign aid from the U.S. that clearly do not see things the way we do. It is no coincidence the world's most brutal regimes vote with the U.S. such a low percentage of the time in the U.N. Americans would be surprised to hear the U.S. often provides military aid to the very regimes which are cited for human rights violations, disregard for democracy, and disdain of free market practices.

Simply, this bill would prohibit military assistance to countries which failed to support the U.S. at least 25% of the time in the UNGA. Humanitarian aid and developmental assistance would be left intact. The House on previous occasions has approved this language as part of both authorization and appropriation bill.

I believe our message to these nations is making an impact. In just the past four years, the number of nations voting with the U.S. less than 25% of the time in the U.N. and receiving U.S. military assistance has been reduced from 43 nations to 6 and from \$187 million to \$13.4 million in military assistance. Our

intent should be to encourage countries to adopt our domestic traditions and commitment to human rights.

A 25% voting coincidental is not asking too much. We are not coercing states to vote our position. However, we have right to withhold aid if we believe that the states we are currently aiding do not share our ideals and values. We should not support military assistance to oppressive regimes which consistently oppose American efforts in the U.N. General Assembly. We must ensure the money we spend on foreign assistance best serve the interests of the American taxpayer. If we cut or reform domestic programs that are not working, why not require it of our foreign aid program? Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage Members interested in accountability, reform and fiscal responsibility to cosponsor this timely and imperative initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 24 and 25 and March 4 I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed several votes.

Had I been here I would have voted: "Yes" on passage of H.R. 438; "yes" on passage of the Journal for February 25; "yes" on passage of H.R. 514; and "yes" on passage of H.R. 707.

DON'T BLOW AWAY SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an article printed in the March edition of the Labor Party Press, and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' benefit:

"DON'T BLOW AWAY SOCIAL SECURITY"

There is no Social Security crisis. But if Democrats and Republicans get their way and privatize the system, there will be.

"It's weird," says economist Dean Baker of the Preamble Center, who has been studying and writing about Social Security reform. "We're all looking at the same numbers, and what the numbers say—even the pessimistic ones—is that we could take absolutely no action on Social Security for the next 34 years, and the program would continue to pay out all its benefits." And yet, politicians of both parties are all aflutter about the need to radically reform Social Security right away.

The picture they paint does sound grim. Mostly because people are living longer, today's workforce is supporting a greater and greater number of Social Security recipients. And the trend will probably continue. In 1995, there were nearly five people under 65 for every one person over retirement age. But by 2030, the ratio will be more like three workers for every retiree. And since Social

Security is actually a pay-as-you-go system—current workers pay for current retirees—that spells trouble. (See "Social Security Basics" on page 4.) For the time being, we can supplement the shortfall by drawing from the extra pot of money the Social Security system has amassed (the Social Security Trust Fund). But then, in 2034, according to some projections, that fund will be depleted, and Social Security money will have to come from active workers alone. And, under the current formula, they would only be able to cover about 75 percent of the benefits retirees had been promised from Social Security.

President Clinton and members of Congress say "saving" Social Security is at the top of their agenda (after impeachment, of course). Many recipes have been written for rescuing Social Security. The most extreme plans involve privatization. Some people want the Social Security payroll withholding to go into our own "personal security account" that we can invest ourselves. Less radical plans would allow the Social Security Trust Fund to be invested in the stock market, where it would supposedly get a higher return than where it is invested now, in U.S. Treasury bonds.

President Clinton favors a combination of both ideas. He wants to invest part of the Social Security Fund (eventually up to 15 percent of it) in the stock market. He also proposes setting up voluntary new private accounts for middle- and low-income Americans—but outside the Social Security system.

At a time when the stock market is in the stratosphere, record numbers of Americans are investing, and the airwaves are full of experts advising the general public on how to get the best return, the idea of turning Social Security into a personal Wall Street investment portfolio is appealing to a lot of people.

But not everybody's sold on the idea. To begin with, many people question whether there even will be a Social Security shortfall. They argue that the Social Security hullabaloo is all based on some very gloomy economic projections made by Social Security trustees. In their reports, the trustees assume that over the next 75 years, the U.S. economy will grow at less than half the rate it has grown for the past 75 years. According to a report by the New York-based Century Foundation, an increase in annual economic growth of just .15 percentage points over the next 35 years would raise output by as much as the combined increase in the cost of both Social Security and Medicare. Meaning: Workers of the future may have no trouble supporting the growing ranks of the retired.

And yet, our politicians have managed to convince a majority of Americans that there really is a crisis at hand. Polls of younger Americans show that many believe they can expect little or no money from Social Security when they retire (unless, perhaps, the system is radically changed).

So who started this rush for a "solution" to the Social Security "crisis"? Follow the money. Wall Street could stand to gain \$240 billion in fees within the first 12 years of a privatized system, according to economist Christian Weller. That, he points out, is enough to give 20,000 fund managers an annual salary of \$1 million each. No wonder the financial industry has spent millions of dollars of late to promote the idea of Social Security privatization.

Economist Dean Baker believes there's a deeper motive behind the privatization push: "I think much of this is being driven by people who are just plain anti-government," he

says. "And Social Security is the government's flagship social program."

It may be, says Baker, that some minor adjustments will need to be made to allow the Social Security system to continue in good health. (See the sidebar on "What We Should Do.") But privatizing the system and investing Social Security money in the stock market is not the way to go. In fact, he believes, it would take the "security" out of Social Security. Most of us would see our retirement incomes dramatically reduced.

HONORING GAIL WALLACE PETERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the distinguished career of my good friend, Chief Gail Wallace "Pete" Peterson. On March 26th, Pete will step down after 16 years as the Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety for the City of Ceres and retire after 40 years in law enforcement.

Pete has accumulated a very impressive and broad range of experience. Rising through the ranks, Pete proved that setting high standards and meeting them on a daily basis is the key to success. I think we take for granted the role people like Pete play. As critical as the police chief is—particularly in small communities—Pete is more than just the head of law enforcement. He's a role model, a friend, and an excellent example.

I am proud to report Pete proved his commitment to leadership in bringing both police and fire services under one department to better serve the city. He has played an active role in supporting initiatives to enhance school safety, prevent gang violence and provide a drug-free environment.

I appreciate Pete very much. He's been a good friend to me and he's been very good for the people of Ceres. It's hard to ask anyone for more than that. Under his watch the city met the challenge of developing community-oriented policing with an impressive list of new programs and initiatives including the city's first K-9 unit and motorcycle division. There are more police officers on the street thanks to his efforts. From the Explorer Scouts to the Bicycle Patrol program. Volunteers in Public Safety to working to increase traffic safety, Pete is responsible for several proactive programs to forge an effective bond with the public.

Outside the law enforcement arena, Pete is also a proven leader in a number of other areas including the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. Pete is one of the invaluable people who always seem to be there for the community on a moment's notice.

I consider it an honor to call Pete my friend. He has served our community well and I wish him and his wife, Karen, much happiness as he begins his retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives rise and join me in honoring Pete Peterson as he retires from a distinguished law enforcement career.